
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Amy Aldana, Scott Andrews, Aurora Chavez, Susie Doss, Christina Duran, Albert Figueroa, Nancy Hart, Gurumantra Khalsa, Jeff Kraus, Karin Roberts, Taffi Romero, Justin Scott-Coe, Nancy Sturmer, and Paul Van Doren

Members Excused: Cindy Jensen and Wil Lopez

Members Absent: Melvin Ryman and Lorraine Hernandez Saint

Mayor/Council Members: Mayor Ron Loveridge; Brenda Flowers, Mayor’s Office

Guests: Diane Jenkins and David Murray, Planning Division; Paul Chavez, Lisa Diggs, Norm Gritton, Jan O’Neill, Erin Snyder and Jeff Urans.

Staff: Don Smith, Hilda Gonzalez, and Lori Gjelhau, Housing & Neighborhoods Division.

1. Call to Order/Introductions –

Chairperson Romero called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

2. Approval of Minutes for July 7, 2008 –

(Sturmer/Figueroa/carried)

3. Presentation – Planning Division – Diane Jenkins reported that the Planning Division had been requested by City Council to work with RNP on the neighborhood plan specified in Riverside General Plan 2025. The University neighborhood plan has already been completed and the Eastside is currently underway. The Planning Division holds workshops created for each neighborhood and they receive input from the community so as to ensure that their neighborhood plan is what they want it to be. Planning is now working with the Eastside neighborhood in which two workshops have already been completed and a third workshop is set for November. Planning is asking RNP to deliberate on what two to four neighborhood plans will be undertaken in the next two years or so. She suggested some items to look at when considering which neighborhood to pick next. For example, the University neighborhood was completed first because of the concerns of UCR’s long-range development plan. Also, geographic concerns, recent changes in neighborhood dynamics and growth, and specific plans that are already in place that may be old and needs to be updated, are also considered when choosing which neighborhood to choose next. Diane indicated that Planning is short on staff so one plan is only being done this year. Jeff asked Diane if staff or council has preferred alternatives. Diane replied not at this time. Christina suggested that Ward 3 could be next and seems logical. Aurora recommended Wards 6 and 7 because of growth.

4. Visiting Council Members/Mayor’s Office –

a) Mayor:

Mayor Loveridge addressed the Board and offered the following information and suggestions:

- Next Mayors Night Out on 9/24/08 at Bryant Elementary
- 311 Summary of Enforcement Calls
- RNP should have a reporting role at City Council meetings and should have a greater profile.

- Neighborhood Watch should be more active and suggested that RNP invite someone from the police department to report on how it is going.
- Crime Free program needs monitoring and encouraged RNP to invite someone from the police department to talk about the Crime Free Multi Housing Program.
- Encouraged block parties.
- Community centers offer a variety of activities and he suggested that RNP see how they connect with neighborhoods.
- In December, the Mayor's office will come back and talk about the Neighborhood Governance Proposal.
- Emphasis on neighborhoods in the next State of the City Address.
- Three members from RNP Board should attend the annual Neighborhoods USA conference. He stated that the City will find funding to send the three members to the conference.
- Update on Renaissance projects.
- b) Wards 6 and 7, Council Member Hart:
 - Areas that have needs
 - 5 Points
 - Pierce and Magnolia
 - 10 streets to be paved in Arlanza
 - Revenue from new stores at the Tyler Galleria, new library and redevelopment money.
- c) Ward 2, Hilda Gonzalez reported on behalf of Council Member Melendrez:
 - Demolition of Western Liquor
 - Discount Liquor on University to be demolished next.
 - Redo mural near Dwight Street
 - New neighborhood group – Santa Cruz Drive, 40 residents attend neighborhood meeting

5. Establishment of Nominating Committee – As to the neighborhood plan, Taffi stated that a nominating committee will be established first and will give recommendations on which neighborhoods will be concentrated on next. Karin, Christina, Scott and Jeff volunteered to be involved in discussing the selection of the next neighborhoods. The nominating committee will meet and will be looking for the next four neighborhoods. Meeting notice will be sent to all members. Diane volunteered to attend that meeting.

6. Housing and Neighborhoods Report –

- Don reviewed information in RNP binder.
- Neighborhood Leadership Academy – Don reported that it starts next week and there are only 14 applicants so far. He asked all members to encourage new leaders to apply. Dennis Boylin is the facilitator.
- Don reported that Housing and Neighborhoods is working on a special bilingual program and information on that will be forthcoming.
- Eva is working with UCR on developing an agreement to do a neighborhood assessment/quality of life study.

7. Subcommittee Reports – A list of subcommittees was passed around for members to identify committees they would like to serve on this year.

- a) Bylaws Subcommittee – Gurumantra reported that the subcommittee recommends that a membership subcommittee be established to help recruit people for Board vacancies.
- b) Non-profit Subcommittee Report – None
- c) Neighborhood Conference Subcommittee – None
- d) Marketing Subcommittee – Don suggested that the recommended membership committee be combined with the marketing committee.
- e) Neighborhood Matching Grant Subcommittee – None
- f) Neighborhood Awards Subcommittee – None

8. Concerns from Visiting Neighbors – Paul Chavez expressed concerns about last MNO.

9. Future Agenda Items

- a) October –
 - Election of RNP Officers – Christina nominated Taffi for chair, seconded by Susie. Susie nominated Albert for vice chair and Gurumantra nominated Christina for vice chair. Taffi reminded the members that there is one month to consider nominations.
- b) November –
 - Neighborhood Caucus discussion

10. Other Items/Public Comment –

- County of Riverside's first Neighborhood Conference to be held on 10/25
- City of Corona's UNITY neighborhood group
- Southern California Neighborhood Partnership coming up in October
- Multicultural Festival on 10/4
- Police Night Out on 9/18 at Arlington High School
- Traffic Safety Fair at Castle Park on 10/4
- Susie reported on National Night Out.
- Hilda offered to help neighborhood groups make the necessary contacts to have the Police Department and Fire Department present at the community block parties

Taffi reported on:

- Area 5, Riverwalk had a neighbors' night out.
- Wards 6 and 7 residents have concerns about school and traffic.
- La Sierra has a Neighbor to Neighbor group. It is a ward group that is reaching out to seniors, people with disabilities, or anyone in need. They are offering assistance from Abbott School and La Sierra University. They are going to Riverwalk next week and help Riverwalk adopt a street. Neighbor to Neighbor is more of a help group and has asked if RNP can help out with volunteers with any talents and skills. Community hours are being offered to La Sierra, Abbott, and La Sierra University. Age limit on volunteers is dependent upon the schools.

11. Next Meeting: October 6, 2008 – Mayor's Ceremonial Room

12. Adjournment – 8:19 P.M.